FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have already phased out the use of Aldrin in India and the registration issued under the Insecticides Act, 1968 shall stand cancelled with effect from 31st December, 1993. Besides Aldrin, pesticides which have been prohibited recently are chlordane, heptachlor, tetradifon, nitrofen, nicotine sulphate (prohibited for use, manufactured for export purpose only), paraquat, phenylmercury acetate, and pentachlorophenol. Pesticides which have been restricted recently are lindane, methyl parathion, BHC and DDT.

Untreated effluents in some industrial towns

3350. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that untreated effluents have reached into underground aquifers in the industrial townships of Faridabad, Ludhiana, Pali etc. and in Varanasi, Kanpur and Lucknow and other cities;

(b) if so, whether water in these centres is becoming unfit for human consumption; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to save and protect public health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Studies carried out by the Central Ground Water Board have revealed that ground water in localized parts of some cities have been polluted due to seepage of untreated effluents and is not fit for human consumption, unless treated.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to save and protect public health include the following:

(i) Effluent standards have been prescribed.

(ii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(iii) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards.

(iv) Industries have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment on a time bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(v) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have been asked by the State Govts. to comply with the effluent standards on a time bound basis.

(vi) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants.

Toxins Quench Thirst in Industrial Towns

3351. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appeared in the Indian Express dated the 29th November, 1992 captioned "Toxins Quench Thirst in Industrial Towns";

(b) whether it is a fact that industrial effluents have leaked into underground aquifers in most of the industrial towns;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted on this problem;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that a recent survey identified the city of Hyderabad as most vulnerable to ground water pollution;

(f) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has formulated any scheme to prevent such pollution; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Studies carried out by the Central Ground Water Board have revealed that ground water in parts of some cities has been polluted due to seepage of untreated effluents and is not fit for human consumption, unless treated.

(c) A survey on ground water quality in Pattancheru and Bollarum areas in Hyderabad carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board during September, 1992 has revealed that ground water in certain areas has been polluted particularly with respect to nitrate and flouride.

(f) and (g) The steps taken to prevent pollution in these areas include the following:

(i) Steps have been initiated to set up a common effluent treatment plant in these areas under the scheme of assistance to cluster of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants.

(ii) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed.

(iii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(iv) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards.

(v) Industries have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment on a time bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(vi) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have been asked by the State Governments to comply with the effluent standards on a time bound basis.

Merger of Rajaji, Motichoor and Chilla sanctuaries

3352. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1983, the 820 Sq. Kms. of forest covering parts of Dehradun, Haridwar and Pauri Garhwal was notified as Rajaji National Park;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to merge Rajaji, Motichoor and Chilla sanctuaries to carve out the State's biggest National Park;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that under this scheme thousands of Gujjars—a nomadic tribe living for ages in the forests now covered under the proposed Rajaji National Park, have served a notice that they should not be displaced from there; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action so far taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (f) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has notified its intention to constitute Rajaji National Park in 1983 in an area of 820 Sq. Kms. which included Motichoor, Rajaji and Chilla Wildlife Sanctuaries and some other forest areas. The problem of relocation of Gujjars from within the Park to a suitable location has been under consideration of the Government of Uttar Pradesh for a very long time. The matter had been agitated in the Supreme Court also. To ensure that the rehabilitation of Gujjars is carried out with avoidable hardship to them, Uttar Pradesh Government have built a new colony at Pathari. In view of the rehabilitation measures taken by the Uttar Pradesh Government, Supreme Court has dismissed the application of the Gujjars against translocation. However,